



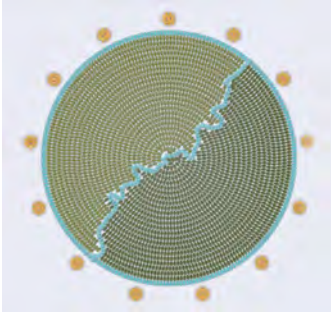
CITY OF EDMONTON

**INDIGENOUS FRAMEWORK
2024 Annual Report**

WAHIGICICOB
WÂKÔHTOWIN
ILAGIINGNIQ
KINSHIP

edmonton.ca/IndigenousFramework

Edmonton



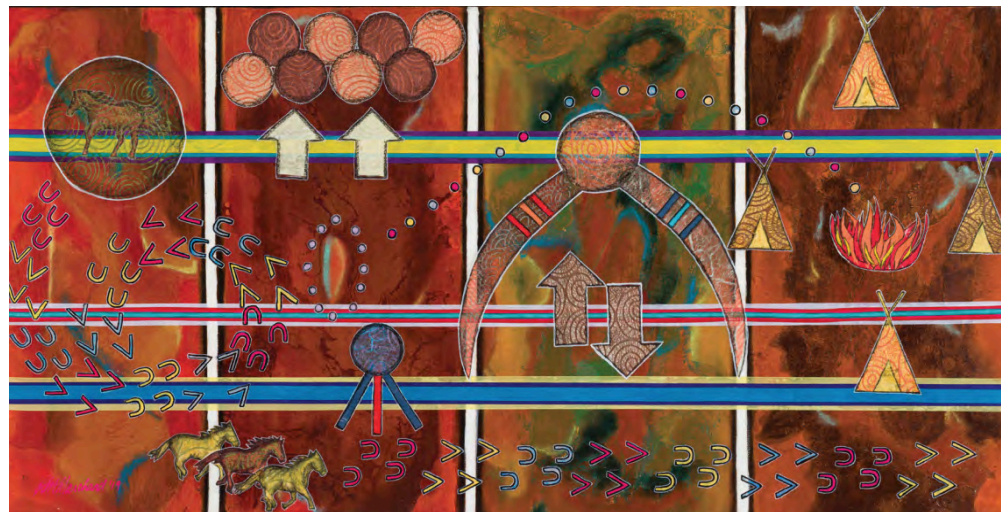
The Indigenous Framework logo was designed by Tashina Makokis.

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The City of Edmonton acknowledges the traditional land on which we reside is in Treaty 6 territory. We thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as nêhiyaw (Cree), Dene, Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Nakota Isga (Nakota Sioux) and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) peoples. We also acknowledge this land as the Métis homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. It is a welcoming place for all peoples who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home. Together we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.



City as an Advocate by Dawn Marie Marchand is on display in Edmonton City Hall.



pisiskapahtam by Lana Whiskeyjack is on display in Edmonton City Hall.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF KINSHIP

The City of Edmonton and Indigenous community members have made significant efforts to build strong relationships with one another over the past 20 years. Together, we built the Indigenous Framework on that foundation.

We are grateful for Indigenous community members and partners — including Elders, Knowledge Holders and youth — who continue to share their time, wisdom, leadership and lived experience throughout this process.

Early in the development of this initiative, Indigenous Elders led a ceremony to begin this work in a good way and identified a name to guide our efforts: Wahigicicobi (wah-hee-gee-chee-cho-bee), an Îethka Nakoda word meaning “kinship relationships”. Elders have also shared with us related terms such as the nêhiyaw (Cree) concept of WÂHKÔHTOWIN (Wah-KOH-toh-win) as well as llagiingniq (ee-la-geeng-nuk) in Inuktun.

This understanding of kinship has deep roots that include our interconnected relationships with Mother Earth and all beings, as well as our shared responsibilities to one another including honour and respect. We recognize all of our natural surroundings, including plants and animals that touch or rely upon the North Saskatchewan River as well as the land, wind, snow, air and cycles of the moon and sun.

As we strengthen our relationships with Indigenous Peoples, we continue to learn about the concept of kinship shared by Elders and Knowledge Holders.



Elder Tom Snow and Mayor Amarjeet Sohi shake hands during a City Council and Elders Gathering, April 2024.



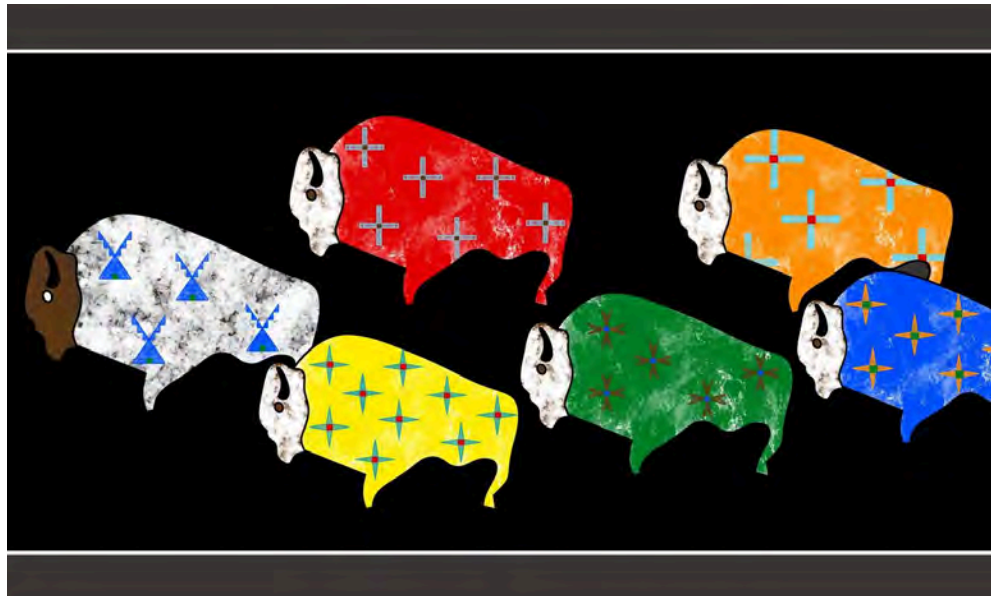
The Indigenous Framework Circle of Elders and Knowledge Holders provide guidance to the City of Edmonton's reconciliation journey.

GUIDANCE OF ELDERS AND KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS

While co-creating the Indigenous Framework with Indigenous community members, the City of Edmonton convened a diverse circle of Elders and Knowledge Holders to guide our reconciliation journey.

This circle included members of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities who offered wisdom and lived experiences that more deeply connected us with Indigenous community members and understanding their priorities. Through ceremonies, prayers and intergenerational teachings, Elders and Knowledge Holders also helped to ground the Framework in Indigenous ways of knowing and being that model good kinship relationships.

Our journey is like a winding river that carries close-knit relatives and reveals new ones around each bend. We are grateful for the valuable counsel and contributions of Elders and Knowledge Holders who have joined us on this journey, and those we are yet to meet. We commit to strengthening the relationships created along the way and look forward to more on the horizon.



Artwork design by Alayne Goodwill, installed on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation 2024 at the crosswalk on Bearspaw Drive & 19th Avenue in south Edmonton.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

CORPORATE SPONSORS



Salima Ebrahim
Chief of Staff and Corporate
Lead on Anti-Racism and
Reconciliation
Office of the City Manager

As Edmonton plans for a city of two million people, there will be impacts to how we use land, build infrastructure and deliver services. We recognize that with these changes, we must remain accountable to the community, the environment and to reconciliation.

As we reflect on another year guided by the Indigenous Framework, we reaffirm the City's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. This work is not a single initiative but a core priority, woven into the fabric of how we govern, how we listen and how we serve.



Jennifer Flaman
Deputy City Manager
Community Services

The Indigenous Framework, co-created with Elders, Knowledge Holders and Indigenous community members, continues to shape policies, programs and services across the City. Our work continues to be guided by the leadership, knowledge and lived experiences of Indigenous Peoples, and we are especially grateful for the ongoing support and collaboration of community partners and City staff who bring this work to life in meaningful and tangible ways.

Over the past year, this commitment has translated into significant milestones that reflect both progress and purpose such as the launch of the Indigenous Project and Engagement Internship (MMIWG2S+) Program. The City published the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Dashboard, which monitors the progress of the City's TRC Municipal Response Plan and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) Action Plan. The dashboard helps advance systemic change and enable accountability in the City's reconciliation process.

In 2024, the City hosted Hear Our Voices: Michel People and Residential Schools, and exhibit at City Hall, officially renamed 101A Avenue to "Okísikow Way NW", brought community together for an Elders Engagement Gathering and continued to support the annual Ben Calf Robe Pow Wow, which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2024, at Clarke Stadium. These examples demonstrate the City's dedication to kinship and support for the resurgence of Indigenous culture in municipal spaces and places.

We recognize that reconciliation is not linear. It is ongoing, intergenerational work that requires courage, humility and a commitment to change. The Executive Leadership Team is united in our support for the City's reconciliation journey, and the continued evolution of the Indigenous Framework.



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(Amiskwaciy-wâskahikan) by
Melissa-Jo (MJ) Belcourt Moses is
on display in Edmonton City
Hall.

This report is more than a reflection - it is a roadmap. We encourage you to learn from the stories shared and join us in advancing reconciliation. Together, in the spirit of kinship, we can build a city that honours the truths of the past and embraces a shared future rooted in respect, dignity and connection.

Salima Ebrahim

Chief of Staff, Office of the City Manager
Corporate Lead for Anti-racism and Reconciliation

Jennifer Flaman

Deputy City Manager, Community Services



Traffic control box artwork by Lance Cardinal, titled "Healing Medicine" and located at 103 Street & 96 Avenue, features a jingle dress dancer waving a fan of eagle feathers.



A sign reads "NO MORE Stolen Sisters" at the Red Dress Day march in Churchill Square, May 2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Four years ago, the City of Edmonton adopted the [Indigenous Framework](#) to guide the City's approach to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and communities. Built upon decades of dialogue and relationship building, the Framework continues to forge new and stronger connections among the diverse Indigenous peoples and communities who live in or visit Edmonton and who have historical and cultural connections to the lands upon which Edmonton has been built. The Framework serves as an ongoing vital guide for cultivating strong and respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples, empowering City employees to understand their roles as listeners, connectors, partners and advocates in this important journey. Some significant steps taken by the corporation in 2024 include:

- Seeds of Reclamation and Resurgence: Empowering Indigenous Leaders *Indigenous Project and Engagement Internship (MMIWG2S+) Program*
- Investing in the Strength of Community *Operating Grant for Indigenous-led Organizations*
- A Harmonizing Vision For Community, Culture and Economic Development *Elevating Indigenous involvement in the implementation of River Crossing*
- Kinship & Conversation: Indigenous Voices Guiding Truth and Reconciliation *Elders and Knowledge Holders Engagement Gathering*
- A Space for Truth and Healing *Hear Our Voices Exhibit in City Hall*
- Wiring for Change: Economic Reconciliation in Action *City of Edmonton partners with First Nations Inspection Authority*
- Building Bridges Through Transparency *Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC) Dashboard*

Each of these actions align with at least one of our seven commitments to honour and enact the framework through municipal policies, programs and services.

The Indigenous Framework is a living initiative designed to adapt to changing community priorities as these relationships grow and mature. Over the past year, a network of internal Indigenous Framework teams supported by more than 85 employees were working to identify and implement more than 70 actions to advance the seven commitments, such as:

- Merging Maps with Indigenous Culture, History and Perspectives
- Indigenous Resources and Understandings Guidebook



Heartbeat of a Nation by Brad Crowfoot is on display in Edmonton City Hall.

- Northeast River Valley Park Strategic Plan: A Story of Connection
- Indigenous Procurement: Realizing Social and Economic Impacts Through the City's Purchasing Power
- Supporting City Staff on their Reconciliation Journeys
- Reflecting Indigenous Peoples in City Spaces and Places
- Treaty Six Sharing Circle

As the foundation for our reconciliation journey, the framework has also supported the development and implementation of plans responding to the TRC calls to action and the calls for justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

This report includes updates on the second year of our [TRC Municipal Response Plan](#), which includes more than 90 commitments that respond to, or were inspired by, 27 calls to action. Projects flowing from these commitments correspond to four thematic pillars (awareness, addressing, resurgence and advocacy) that guide this plan.

These four pillars, developed in conversation with community members, also guide our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) Action Plan, which currently includes 26 commitments connected to 50 calls for justice. The Indigenous Framework also serves to advance the City's commitment to Reconciliation, which is one of the seven pillars of the Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Strategy. The CSWB Strategy is the City of Edmonton's long-term, city-wide approach to creating a compassionate, inclusive and safe city by addressing the root causes of social challenges through prevention, intervention and systemic change. As the City of Edmonton continues to implement the framework and these plans in 2025, information about upcoming projects on our reconciliation journey have also been included.



Edmonton City Hall and City Hall Plaza, April 2024.



Cree & Métis Elder Betty Letendre speaks at the City's Connect with our Roots and National Indigenous History month event in the Dunvegan community, June 2024.

INDIGENOUS FRAMEWORK

Vision

The [Indigenous Framework](#) was approved by Edmonton City Council in 2021 as our guide to building strong and supportive relationships with Indigenous Peoples. Through the framework, City of Edmonton employees are supported and encouraged to demonstrate leadership in building these relationships as we honour and strive to understand Indigenous experiences, histories and cultures.

Guiding Principles

The Indigenous Framework builds upon the City of Edmonton's historical work on the [Urban Aboriginal Accord](#), which is based on four guiding principles identified by community members:

- Relationships** Strengthen connections by listening carefully to one another, honouring each other's values and demonstrating respect for protocols as well as processes.
- Agreements** Create agreements that acknowledge the past, enrich community life, provide mutually beneficial solutions and focus on the interests of future generations.
- Celebrations** Recognize, celebrate and share the stories of our growing relationships, including memorable milestones and shared achievements.
- Renewal** Renew and strengthen these relationships by honouring the spirit and intent of the framework, a living document to be reviewed periodically to maintain accountability, transparency, inclusivity and responsiveness.



Selection from Amiskwaçiw Wâskâyhkan Ihtâwin by Destiny Swiderski.



Elder Karen McKenzie and Ward Sspomitapi Councillor Jo-Anne Wright chat during a kinship gathering between City Council and Elders in PĪYĒSĪW WĀSKĀHIKAN (Thunderbird House) at Stanley A. Milner Library, October 2023.

Roles and Commitments

Four roles serve as “guiding lights” to help employees embody the Indigenous Framework through everyday work.

- Listener** We listen with open hearts and minds when Indigenous Peoples share their stories and experiences.
- Connector** We connect Indigenous Peoples to the programs, services, people and resources that enrich the community and foster relationships to create positive change.
- Advocate** We stand with Indigenous Peoples to create a safe and inclusive city where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.
- Partner** We work in partnership with Indigenous Peoples on initiatives to improve the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional well-being of Indigenous Peoples in Edmonton.

These roles function alongside the seven commitments below that articulate the City of Edmonton’s intention to honour and enact the framework through policies, programs and services:

1. Support the journey of reconciliation by applying the Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action, the calls for justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as a foundation for the Indigenous Framework.
2. In partnership with organizations, businesses, academic institutions, other orders of government, and individual citizens, eliminate the systemic racism and discrimination that Indigenous Peoples face in Edmonton.
3. Identify and implement ways to make City of Edmonton spaces and buildings welcoming and safe for Indigenous Peoples and ensure they can see themselves reflected in these spaces and places.
4. Help City of Edmonton staff honour the four framework roles to build relationships with Indigenous Peoples, and increase staff knowledge of Indigenous cultures, traditions and worldviews through education and learning opportunities.
5. Host and participate in events where the City of Edmonton — including Edmonton City Council, senior leadership and all levels of the



A carved rock explaining the meaning of the Indigenous Art Park : Δσ° (ÎNÎW) River Lot 11[∞].

administration — can build relationships with Indigenous Peoples and celebrate our journey together.

6. Identify and remove the systemic barriers that exist for Indigenous Peoples in gaining employment with the City of Edmonton, and create career development opportunities for Indigenous employees.
7. Ensure Indigenous Peoples and City of Edmonton staff are informed and engaged, when appropriate, on actions the City of Edmonton takes in relation to the Indigenous Framework.

Approach to Reconciliation

Co-created with Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Holders, youth and partner organizations, the Indigenous Framework is driven by the values of Indigenous community members and designed to adapt to changing priorities. The voices, experiences and contributions of Indigenous Peoples are integral to this initiative.

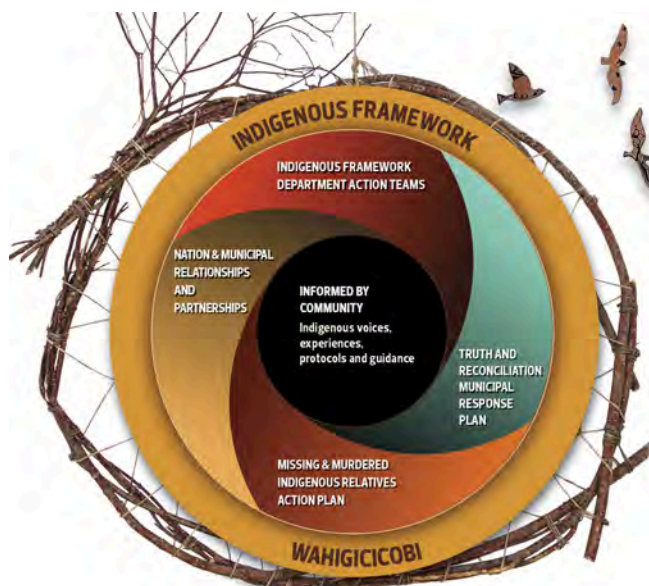
This foundational work enables a network of Indigenous Framework action teams that realize the four roles and seven commitments to create change throughout the organization and the greater community. It also laid the groundwork for the next steps in our journey, the creation of our [TRC Municipal Response Plan](#) and [MMIR Action Plan](#).

These integrated efforts support a comprehensive approach to reconciliation that is grounded in the spirit of kinship. The Indigenous Framework will continue to develop as these relationships mature and we gain a deeper understanding of Indigenous Peoples' truths, experiences, identities and distinct cultures.

This work is not a "checkbox" exercise. Rather, it is part of an ongoing effort to advance the Truth and Reconciliation Commission [calls to action](#), the [calls for justice](#) outlined in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and the principles of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#). In this multi-generational work, the process is just as important as the outcome.



Volunteers work on assembling a teepee tent inside the City Room during the Moose Hide Campaign Day event inside City Hall, May 2024.



APPROACH TO RECONCILIATION

What guides the work?

Grounded in Kinship (Wahigicicobi)

Guiding Principles

Relationships | Agreements | Celebrations | Renewal

How we do the work?

Indigenous Framework Four Roles

Listener | Connector | Advocate | Partner

Why we do the work?

Indigenous Framework

Corporate Commitments

TRC Calls to Action | MMIWG2S+ Calls for Justice

UNDRIP | Inherent and Treaty Rights

Milestones

Through community engagement, activities, celebrations and commemorations, the City of Edmonton is developing stronger relationships with Indigenous Peoples and a deeper appreciation for diverse Indigenous cultures, traditions and legacies. Guided by the four roles, our journey in 2024 included many memorable milestones.

Seeds of Reclamation and Resurgence: Empowering Indigenous Leaders Indigenous Project and Engagement Internship (MMIWG2S+) Program

In a commitment to address the ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) and to foster true reconciliation, the City of Edmonton established the *Indigenous Project and Engagement Internship (MMIWG2S+) Program* in 2024. This program is a bridge connecting municipal governance with Indigenous community development, aiming to nurture a new generation of Indigenous leaders equipped to navigate the complexities of these vital areas.

At its core, the program seeks to advance positive environments and cultural resurgence for Indigenous women and Two-Spirit peoples. It recognizes the findings of the MMIWG2S+ National Inquiry's Final Report, which highlighted the persistent human and Indigenous rights violations as a root cause of the violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

Each year-long internship is structured into two phases where interns spend half their time within the City of Edmonton's Indigenous Relations Office (IRO), and half their time with an Indigenous community organization. In 2024, two interns were hired with one dedicating their community organizational time to



pisiskapahtam by Lana Whiskeyjack is on display in Edmonton City Hall.

tapahteyimokamik (Humble Lodge) and the other to [Ociciwan Contemporary Art Centre](#).

Interns gain experience in research, data analysis, grant proposal writing, and project management. They participate in cultural events and ceremonies, connect with Indigenous Elders, and support cultural preservation initiatives. They are empowered to reclaim their cultural roles, practices, and language within their communities while exploring potential career paths in public service and community development.

The City and community partners also see significant benefits. Interns contribute directly to the City's MMIR Action Plan, bringing insightful perspectives towards addressing systemic issues and empowerment of Indigenous women and Two-Spirit people. It centers Indigenous knowledge, ensuring that solutions are grounded in lived experiences and wisdom. The program emphasizes an Indigenous evaluative perspective, with interns participating in co-creating their evaluation.

This Internship Program is about building relationships, fostering understanding, and creating a lasting impact. By bridging the gap between municipal public services and Indigenous community development, the program is helping to forge a path toward a more equitable and reconciled future. It is an investment in people, in community, and in a vision of a better tomorrow where Indigenous voices are heard, valued, and leading the way.

Investing in the Strength of Community

Operating Grant for Indigenous-led Organizations

In 2024, the City of Edmonton made a significant stride towards reconciliation by allocating \$1,000,000 to the [Operating Grant for Indigenous-led Organizations](#). This funding was provided through the Community Safety and Well-being Strategy. This grant program, funded through the CSWB Strategy, is an expression of the Indigenous Framework's Commitment #2 to "eliminate the systemic racism and discrimination that Indigenous Peoples face in Edmonton." Organizations dedicated to promoting the resurgence of Indigenous culture, language, identity, and ceremony, while also ensuring safe, inclusive, and healing spaces, are supported through this funding stream. By supporting these initiatives, the City seeks to contribute to learning and advancing research, ultimately fostering a more equitable and compassionate community.

In 2024, this funding supported [20 Indigenous-led organizations](#) across Edmonton to undertake important and meaningful work towards tangible impact across the city. Stories of resilience, growth, and renewed hope have emerged as these groups bring people together, share traditions, and create opportunities for healing and learning. In total, the funded organizations served over 27,000 people through a variety of services and supports with over



Mayor Amarjeet Sohi greets performers at the 2024 Ben Calf Robe Pow Wow, May 2024.

800 volunteers contributing over 8,000 hours of time. The investment symbolizes the city's genuine commitment to walking hand-in-hand with Indigenous communities on the journey of truth and reconciliation.

The allocation of these funds represents a concrete step towards reconciliation, demonstrating the City of Edmonton's dedication to supporting Indigenous-led efforts. Through this grant program, the city actively supports cultural revitalization, healing, and well-being, fostering a more equitable and compassionate environment for all residents. The impact of these grants is felt throughout Edmonton, strengthening communities and moving the city forward on its path toward truth and genuine reconciliation.

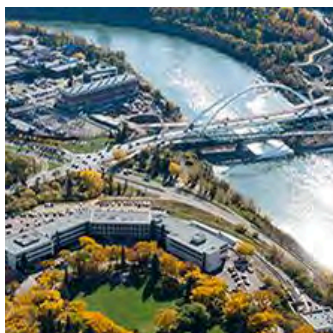


NOTE: Conceptual rendering — River Crossing, in the West Rosedale area, is at the heart of our city. It is a place that is historically and culturally significant for many people, and where the history is long, layered, and deep. It is a site that has been at the heart of trade, travel, kinship, spirituality, community, and culture for thousands of years.

A Harmonizing Vision For Community, Culture and Economic Development Elevating Indigenous involvement in the implementation of River Crossing

The City of Edmonton is leading the development of one of the city's most iconic areas in the central river valley — **River Crossing**. Anchored by the Walterdale Bridge and the Rosedale Power Plant, River Crossing includes park space, heritage buildings and redevelopment land.

Guided by the **River Crossing Business Plan**, the inclusion of Indigenous peoples in every aspect of River Crossing is a priority for the City. This has been established in the **Indigenous Involvement Approach**, which will support key actions in the focus areas of: Project Engagement; Communications and Information Sharing; Economic Reconciliation and Ownership; Historic Reviews and Monitoring; and Operations.



Aerial photo of west Rosedale and the Walterdale Bridge. Indigenous involvement in the implementation of River Crossing is foundational to the area's future.

The Indigenous Involvement Approach, which sought input from 32 Indigenous nations and representative organizations, represents a unique step for the City. It works to include Indigenous peoples and communities in this major cultural and economic development initiative by removing barriers, creating opportunities for inclusion and driving continued growth and learning.

Next steps towards the River Crossing Park and the River Crossing Community Redevelopment Project Phase 1 will continue to be guided by the Indigenous Involvement Approach, as well as the City's Indigenous Framework and Truth and Reconciliation Commission Municipal Response Plan.

Kinship & Conversation: Indigenous Voices Guiding Truth and Reconciliation Elders and Knowledge Holders Engagement Gathering

In July 2024, the City hosted 68 Elders, Knowledge Holders and their cultural helpers at a three-day gathering to gain guidance on initiatives to improve the well-being of Indigenous Peoples in Edmonton. Indigenous guidance and involvement supports the shared goal of these projects to foster healing through revitalization of Indigenous culture, ceremonies and languages while supporting empathy and understanding among Edmontonians.

The gathering began in ceremony, with protocol offered to each Elder and Knowledge Holder to acknowledge the skill and experience they bring to our conversations. The City recognized the importance of having dedicated visiting time to give and receive good relations and to build trust. It was meaningful for all City staff involved to share stories and laughter with Elders and Knowledge Holders over kinship-building meals, games and crafts.

Informed through Indigenous methodologies and ways of relating, the Elders guided talking circle conversations to share, learn and discuss how the City can make progress on four Truth and Reconciliation Commission action projects:

- Creating a Ceremonial Fire Space near City Hall
- Renaming Government Centre (formerly Grandin) LRT Station
- Exploring the long-term vision for [Northeast River Valley Park](#)
- Introducing an engagement process for a Residential School Monument or Commemoration in the Edmonton area

Visual and digital notetakers were present in each session to capture the oral storytelling and knowledge sharing in a respectful way. With the important guidance and ongoing involvement of Elders and Knowledge Holders, these four key project plans have continued throughout 2024 and into 2025.

Reconciliation requires constructive action on addressing the ongoing legacies of colonialism.



Mayor Sohi speaks alongside event organizers and guests at the 2024 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event at Kinsmen Park, September 2024.



A man sits to watch a video while visiting the Hear Our Voices: Michel People and Residential Schools exhibit inside City Hall, November 2024.

A Space for Truth and Healing

Hear Our Voices Exhibit in City Hall

In 2024, Edmonton's City Hall transformed into a space for truth-telling and healing, hosting the "[Hear Our Voices: Michel People & Residential Schools](#)" exhibit. Curated by the Friends of Michel Society, this immersive and intimate experience went beyond written historical accounts to truly give voice to the lived experiences of 29 Residential School Survivors and their families from the former Michel Band #472. For the last two months of 2024, and into 2025, the City Room became a platform for their narratives, stories and experiences. The exhibit allowed City staff, Edmontonians, and visitors to bear witness to the resilience of Indigenous Peoples who attended residential school, and their relations who live with the ongoing impacts.

"Listening to the voices of family was powerful and moving. I felt their words in my whole body. Thank you for keeping these stories alive, bringing truth to light, and helping us get closer to truth and reconciliation." -Hear Our Voices exhibit viewer

Guided by the Indigenous Framework, the City intentionally invited all levels of staff, Administration, and Council to experience the exhibit, engage in dialogue, deepen their understanding, reflect on their roles in reconciliation, and actively build relationships with Indigenous communities. By hosting this exhibit, City Hall symbolized the City's dedication to the awareness pillar in the TRC Municipal Response Plan, specifically focusing on education for public servants, developing commemorative projects and providing a representative space where Indigenous people can heal through story and truth-telling.

Stories have the power to change hearts and minds; and, truth telling is a key element in the process of reconciliation. During its installation from November 2024 to May 2025, City Hall was a place where Indigenous voices were not just heard, but truly listened to, fostering a shared pathway towards healing. It was



Community members visit an Indigenous Framework booth at the 2024 National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration in Borden Park.

a clear demonstration that reconciliation is not just a concept, but an ongoing action, a collective journey where everyone is invited to participate and learn.

Wiring for Change: Economic Reconciliation in Action

City of Edmonton partners with First Nations Inspection Authority

In a vital step towards economic reconciliation, the City of Edmonton established a partnership with the [First Nations Inspection Authority \(FNIA\)](#) in late 2024. FNIA, an Indigenous-owned and operated company fully accredited by the Safety Codes Council, now provides essential electrical, plumbing, gas, building, and HVAC inspections across Edmonton. Led by Nathan McDonald, a member of the Enoch Cree Nation and a seasoned Electrical Safety Codes Officer, FNIA brings not only technical expertise but also a valuable Indigenous perspective and a strong commitment to quality assurance.

This partnership goes beyond simply fulfilling the City's need for inspection services. By integrating FNIA into its operations, the City actively demonstrates its commitment to enacting and honouring the Indigenous Framework and the [Indigenous Procurement Framework](#) through its policies, programs, and services. It highlights the substantial contributions that Indigenous-owned businesses make to the city's development. This collaboration creates equitable partnerships and establishes clear pathways for Indigenous businesses to participate in and benefit from municipal contracts.

Welcoming FNIA to the City's inspection team exemplifies the City of Edmonton's dedication to fostering stronger relationships built on mutual respect with Indigenous communities. It is a powerful example of how economic reconciliation can be achieved through meaningful collaboration and the creation of genuine opportunities for Indigenous economic growth.

Building Bridges Through Transparency

Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Dashboard

To mark the 10th anniversary of the TRC Alberta National Event, the City of Edmonton launched an interactive TRC Dashboard (edmonton.ca/TRC) on March 27, 2024. The TRC Dashboard describes the TRC Municipal Response Plan and details the current status of the City's work to address the 94 TRC Calls to Action. Currently, 27 of these calls have informed over 90 specific commitments within the plan.

Reporting on its progress on specific calls reinforces the City's deep commitment to reconciliation. The Dashboard reflects the alignment between the City's Indigenous Framework, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Action Plan and the Community Safety and Well-being Strategy. It ensures that ongoing actions are visible, accessible and transparent; the public can use this



Ward Anirniq Councillor Erin Rutherford, First Nations Inspection Authority (FNIA) founder Nathan McDonald, Chief of the Enoch Cree Nation Cody Thomas, City Manager Eddie Robar and Urban Planning & Economy Deputy City Manager Kim Petrin pose inside City Hall during a media event to introduce FNIA as the City's newest safety codes inspection contractor, October 2024.

tool to stay informed about the City's TRC response efforts, activities and progress.

“This work is evolving as we continue our reconciliation journey, which includes receiving feedback from Indigenous communities and partners,” said Salima Ebrahim, Chief of Staff and Corporate Lead for Reconciliation and Anti-racism, Office of the City Manager. “Finding ways to share our progress — no matter the status — is a priority for our teams.”

The TRC Dashboard is more than just information. It is a dynamic reflection of the City's dedication to achieving tangible progress and actively involving the Indigenous community in the ongoing reconciliation journey.



Staff from the City of Edmonton, Edmonton Arts Council and Edmonton Heritage Council participate in breakout discussions during an Indigenous Framework retreat, May 2024.



The Indigenous Framework Corporate Action Team gathers for a sharing circle during a May 2024 retreat at the Rundle Family Centre.

INDIGENOUS FRAMEWORK TEAMS

The City of Edmonton supports a network of teams dedicated to implementing the Indigenous Framework throughout the organization and in the greater community.

City Teams:

- Community of Practice
- Urban Planning and Economy Department Action Team
- Community Services Department Action Team
- Integrated Infrastructure Services Department Action Team
- Financial and Corporate Services Department Action Team
- Employee and Legal Services Division Action Team
- City Operations Department Action Team

Partner Organizations:

- Edmonton Arts Council
- Edmonton Heritage Council
- Edmonton Public Library

Led by municipal staff and members of partner organizations, these teams work to build strong relationships with Indigenous employees and community members by embodying the [four roles](#) and working to realize our [framework commitments](#).

Indigenous Framework Corporate Action Team

The Indigenous Framework Corporate Action Team provides strategic oversight to several [department action teams](#) operating throughout the organization. At least one representative from each department action team sits on the corporate action team, along with members of partner organizations such as the [Edmonton Public Library](#), the [Edmonton Heritage Council](#) and the [Edmonton Arts Council](#).

As enthusiastic agents of change, corporate action team members champion the Indigenous Framework and support City of Edmonton efforts to build and maintain relationships with Indigenous Peoples. They also coordinate knowledge and resources that support the efforts of department action teams.

This team's strength is rooted in regular connections, conversations and engagements with Indigenous community members and partners, such as:

- [Edmonton Aboriginal Seniors Centre](#) visit (April 17, 2024)
- Kinship Teachings from Elder Tom Snow (May 1, 2024)
- [Ben Calf Robe Traditional Pow Wow](#) participation (May 11, 2024)
- [Moose Hide Campaign Day](#) participation (May 16, 2024)



Inuk Elder Edna Elias speaks at a kinship gathering with City Council and Elders, April 2024.

- [Connect with our Roots](#) participation (June 1, 2024)
- [National Indigenous Peoples Day Festival](#) participation (June 21, 2024)
- [The Indigenous Experience](#) at KDays booth vendor (July 19-28, 2024)
- [Orange Shirt Day Run and Walk](#) (September 30, 2024)
- REACH Edmonton Fall Connect (October 16, 2024)
- [Métis Recognition Day at City Hall](#) participate (November 13, 2024)
- [Giving Back to the Streets](#) event support (November 23, 2024)
- [Giving Back to the Streets](#) event support (December 21, 2024)

Department Action Teams

In each City of Edmonton department, teams create and implement annual action plans to help realize the City's collective [Indigenous Framework commitments](#).

Department action teams work at the grassroots level to effect change throughout the organization while building relationships with Indigenous employees and community members. Team members also guide the reconciliation journeys of colleagues by modeling the [four roles](#) of listener, connector, partner and advocate.

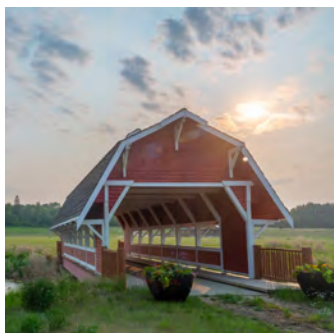
Altogether, these teams have more than [70 actions](#) outlined in their department-specific plans. Each department action team has chosen one significant story from 2024 that demonstrates their efforts to build strong and supportive relationships with Indigenous community members in 2024.

2024 Significant Stories from Department Action Teams

Merging Maps with Indigenous Culture, History and Perspectives

Urban Planning and Economy

A key 2024 goal for the [Urban Planning and Economy](#) Department Action Team was to enhance access to Indigenous knowledge for Edmontonians. As a starting place, they created an interactive online map that merges Edmonton's ward boundaries with the rich meanings of their Indigenous names. In its current format, this map is available internally to City staff to support the integration of Indigenous perspectives into their planning projects. Staff can explore each City Ward with direct connections to the meanings, pronunciations and educational videos developed to support the Indigenous Ward names gifted by [iyiniw iskwewak wihtwawin](#) (the committee of Indigenous matriarchs). This initiative creates a deeper connection and understanding between Indigenous culture, history and heritage, and all who call Edmonton home.



The covered bridge at the Northeast River Valley park.

Indigenous Resources and Understandings Guidebook

Community Services

Guided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, [Community Services](#)' John Walter Museum staff began a dedicated journey to deepen their understanding and awareness of Indigenous history. They contracted a local Metis artist and educator to develop a learning strategy. The resulting "Indigenous Resources and Understandings" guidebook became a key training tool, sparking meaningful conversations and encouraging a spirit of curiosity among staff. Central to this initiative is the Museum's ongoing commitment to the TRC and the encouragement of staff to embrace the Framework's role of Listener, remaining open and curious to new learnings and perspectives. Staff also actively participated in discussions facilitated by Indigenous individuals who shared their lived experiences, providing invaluable guidance on allyship and the creation of meaningful land acknowledgements. Recognizing that the guidebook is just the beginning of a broader and ongoing learning process, the museum remains committed to ongoing training, dialogue, and engagement, ensuring that the space is welcoming, safe, and accessible for everyone as they continue to learn, grow, and build relationships together.



A deer stands at the top of the hill, looking down towards the river reflecting the sun, at the Northeast River Valley Park.

Northeast River Valley Park Strategic Plan: A Story of Connection

Integrated Infrastructure Services

In 2024, the [Integrated Infrastructure Services](#) department began Indigenous engagement with rights-holder partners, Elders, and Knowledge Holders on a Strategic Plan for the newly acquired Northeast River Valley Park. The Northeast River Valley Park Strategic Plan represents a collaborative journey with Indigenous peoples, integrating their knowledge into the park's vision for



An Every Child Matters sticker featuring designs from a young artist.

naturalization, restoration, access, and programming. This ensures that Indigenous cultural spaces remain integral to the park's present and future.

The project team prioritized meaningful Indigenous engagement by adjusting timelines, hosting presentations, and holding 11 on-site tours. They fostered strong relationships through diverse communication methods and flexible scheduling to accommodate all interested parties.

Demonstrating respect, all engagements commenced with smudges and/or prayers and included the important cultural practice of sharing a meal. During the site visits, meals were provided by a local Indigenous caterer, promoting economic reconciliation. During engagement visits, the project team actively listened as Indigenous people shared their thoughts, feelings, and experiences evoked by the land. When participants relayed concerns about barriers to park access, such as the Event Centre's high costs, the project team committed to sharing these concerns with City leadership along with some potential solutions. Presentations and tours showcased park features like the Event Centre and potential ceremonial sites, encouraging the envisioning of future ceremonies and cultural events that could be hosted in the Northeast River Valley Park.

Indigenous engagement opportunities on this strategic plan development project fostered shared understanding and dialogue, bridging immediate project goals with long-term community needs. This intentional listening and active on-site engagement by the project team exemplifies the significance of listening, partnering, and cultivating enduring relationships with Indigenous peoples.



Hilltop view of the Walterdale Bridge and Edmonton's downtown skyline.



Indigenous Artist-in-Residence Program Structure, Values and Alignments from the new Program Guide.

Indigenous Procurement: Realizing Social and Economic Impacts Through the City's Purchasing Power

Financial and Corporate Services

The City of Edmonton spends approximately \$2 billion annually on goods, services, construction and intellectual property rights. The City's [Sustainable Procurement Policy](#) leverages these purchases to support our broader values and goals. This policy was amended in 2022 to include the [Indigenous Procurement Framework](#). The City is currently implementing the following procurement tools to support Indigenous businesses:

- **Low Value Purchase Guideline** directs low value spend to local, diverse and Indigenous businesses.
- **Selling to the City** information sessions for Indigenous businesses to learn about the City's procurement processes.
- **Sustainable Procurement Menu** offers a suite of options that can be included in competitive procurements and contracts, and may include preferential evaluation for Indigenous businesses, employment, training, and procurement.
- **Purchase with Purpose Networking Event** brings together public sector purchasers and diverse and Indigenous suppliers.
- **Community Benefits Framework** is being developed for major construction and infrastructure projects and will provide benefits such as employment, subcontracting, training and apprenticeship opportunities.
- **Indigenous Set Asides** to apply when: the primary users or beneficiaries are Indigenous; the project is culturally significant to Indigenous people; or sufficient Indigenous business capacity exists to respond to procurement requirements. Two recent examples are:
 - Snow Valley Slope Stabilization contract awarded to Enoch Civil Construction
 - Contract awarded to the First Nations Inspection Authority for electrical, plumbing and gas, building and heating, ventilation and air conditioning inspections



Participants start their Orange Shirt Day Run & Walk event, held on National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Kinsmen Park, September 2024.



City Manager Eddie Robar plants a tree with help from Civic Youth Fellowship Interns at the Connect with our Roots event, June 2024.

Supporting City Staff on their Reconciliation Journeys

Employee and Legal Services Division (Office of the City Manager)

The [Employee and Legal Services \(ELS\) division in the Office of the City Manager](#) is deeply committed to fostering relationships with Indigenous Peoples and increasing our staff's understanding of Indigenous cultures. In 2024, ELS focused on several key initiatives to support this commitment.

ELS provided 19 sessions of Indigenous Awareness training, reaching 663 employees. These sessions addressed the history of residential schools and the importance of reconciliation. To further enhance learning, six educational videos were made featuring Elder and knowledge keeper interviews, covering topics such as relationship building, working with Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Protocols, and Treaty relationships.

The ELS team also developed resources to support personal reconciliation journeys, including a Land Acknowledgement Resource Sheet with audio recordings of Indigenous names for Alberta's nations. Recognizing the importance of well-being, an info sheet was created to highlight mental health and wellness supports for Indigenous employees. These efforts reflect the City's heartfelt dedication to creating a more inclusive and understanding workplace.

Reflecting Indigenous Peoples in City Spaces and Places

City Operations

[City Operations](#) has partnered with the Indigenous Relations Office and Edmonton Arts Council on a new approach to the City's Indigenous Artist-in-Residence (IAiR) Program. City Operations will be providing studio space in a City facility, based on the selected artist's needs, and the artist will



Community members craft miniature ribbon skirt magnets during a July 2024 engagement session with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Holders on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Municipal Response Plan.

conduct art workshops with City staff to strengthen their connection to the Indigenous Framework Commitment #3: *"Identify and implement ways to make City spaces and buildings welcoming and safe for Indigenous Peoples and ensure they can see themselves reflected in the City's spaces and places."*

City Operations has hired two Indigenous Framework Operations Coordinators whose responsibilities include working with the IRO to support development and delivery of the IAiR Program, and supporting the selected artist. These new positions will also support the implementation of other actions in the City Operations Indigenous Framework Action Plan.

The Program takes an artist-centered approach. This means the artist will have the time, space, and resources to work with mentors of their choice to advise their artistic practice and support their creative process of making a new body of work during the year-long residency. The changes implemented in the program framework, including the selection process, have been guided by IAiR program alumni, Indigenous arts community members, and Edmonton Arts Council expertise on artist residencies. The program structure is more aligned with the actions of the City's Indigenous Framework, TRC Municipal Response Action Plan, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Municipal Response Plan, and UNDRIP Articles 11 and 31.

The City of Edmonton's fourth Indigenous Artist-in-Residence, Arsene Arcand, was announced on June 19, 2025 as part of the celebration of National Indigenous History Month.

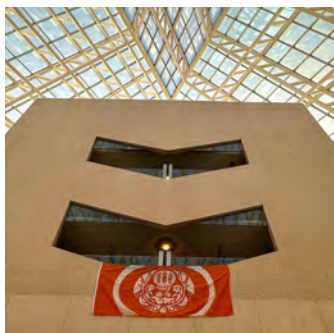
Community of Practice

The Indigenous Framework Community of Practice is open to all City of Edmonton employees interested in learning about municipal initiatives involving and supporting Indigenous Peoples. Guided by a cross-departmental team that plans and organizes learning opportunities and events, the community of practice offers staff safe spaces to network, collaborate, seek guidance and share experiences that help to advance the Indigenous Framework.

This past year, the community of practice held 12 meetings where they discussed current City of Edmonton events and initiatives involving Indigenous peoples and communities and held learning groups on Indigenous history and culture such as this meeting described below.

Treaty Six Sharing Circle

A reflective Treaty Six Sharing Circle was held by the Indigenous Framework Community of Practice on December 5, 2024, at PÎYÊSÎW WÂSKÂHIKAN (Thunderbird House) in the Stanley Milner Library. The group gathered to explore the profound question, 'How am I a Treaty person?' Central to their discussion was a reading of *Treaty No. 6 between Her Majesty the Queen and the*



An "Every Child Matters" flag is displayed inside the City Room, City Hall.

Plain and Wood Cree Indians and other Tribes of Indians at Fort Carlton, Fort Pitt and Battle River with Adhesions. Participants engaged in deep reflection, sharing their personal understandings of the treaty's language and historical context. They considered the challenges faced by those who signed the treaty and the government tactics at play. The group came to understand that treaty responsibility is shared, and each individual has a role in honouring its intent—particularly the principle of sharing the land. This led to a thoughtful examination of how to uphold the treaty in daily life and professional work, with a strong emphasis on cultivating kinship with the Indigenous community and respecting the land and all its inhabitants.



Métis jiggers perform accompanied by JUNO nominated fiddler Brianna Lizotte inside City Hall during Métis Week celebrations, November 2024.

SHARED STEPS: CALLS TO ACTION AND CALLS FOR JUSTICE

From March 27-30, 2014, Edmonton hosted the final [TRC Alberta National Event](#), where Indigenous Peoples shared their personal experiences with Canada's residential school system. The Commission's final report in 2015 outlined [94 Calls to Action](#) to redress the harmful legacy and ongoing impacts of residential schools and to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Following these events, the City of Edmonton began exploring ways to renew its relationships with Indigenous Peoples culminating in the 2021 launch of the Indigenous Framework.

"This is an intergenerational project, and we're committed to continued action, continued relationships and continued dialogue as we find ways to advance our programs and services to better address the needs of local Indigenous communities," said Jaimy Miller, Former Director, Indigenous Relations. "When it comes to reconciliation, the process is part of the outcome."

Grounded in Indigenous understandings of kinship, the Indigenous Framework acts as the foundation for the City's reconciliation journey. This initiative has supported the ongoing development and implementation of outcomes that respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 calls to action and



Mayor Amarjeet Sohi, Councillors Anne Stevenson and Jo-Anne Wright, pose alongside special guest Elisapee Sheutiapik, former Mayor of Iqaluit and Angel Street advocate on Okisikow (Angel) Way Day and official renaming event, June 2024.

the 231 calls for justice outlined in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.



Sheri Neapetung, sister of Gloria Neapetung, holds an Okisikow (Angel) Way street sign and stands with Elder Karen Mackenzie on Okisikow (Angel) Way Day and official renaming event, June 2024.

TRC Municipal Response Plan

The TRC Municipal Response Plan, informed by the original testimonies from the TRC national events and continuous engagement with Indigenous community members, is guided by four pillars:

Awareness	Addressing	Resurgence	Advocacy
Public education and training initiatives.	Policy and procedural changes.	Funding and partnerships for cultural reclamation.	Collaboration with partners for change.

For calls to action outside of the City's direct jurisdiction, the response plan focuses on continued adaptation to a municipal context and advocating alongside community partners and other levels of government.

Initially, implementation of the TRC Municipal Response Plan involved identifying projects that align with the calls to action and developing plans to enhance our response. In essence and over time, the plan aims to address all 94 calls to action in one form or another — from answering the calls for municipalities to advocating those directed at other sectors and orders of government.

In late 2024, the TRC Municipal Response Plan was reshaped to focus on 27 specific calls to action closely aligned with the the City of Edmonton. Within these 27 calls to action are 91 identified projects and initiatives currently tracked on the Municipal Response Plan:

- 60 projects and initiatives are underway and/or ongoing

- 24 projects and initiatives are completed (includes those transitioned to ongoing status)
- 6 projects and initiatives are in a stage of review
- 4 projects are in an early planning stage

Visit the TRC Dashboard at edmonton.ca/TRC for a more comprehensive view.



Tying strands of ribbon on to a red dress at the MMIR Gathering: The Strength in Our Stories, January 2025. Planning and engagement for the event took place in 2024.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Action Plan

Answering Call to Action No. 41 from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission final report, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls identified 231 calls for justice to ensure Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual (2SLGBTQIA) people live in dignity.

In response, the City of Edmonton launched the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) Action Plan in 2022 to address the calls for justice. This initiative is also organized by four thematic pillars — **awareness, addressing, resurgence and advocacy** — created in collaboration with local community members working to end violence against Indigenous Peoples.

Over the past year, the City has expanded its commitments under the MMIR Action Plan, now encompassing 26 initiatives that respond to 50 Calls for Justice. More information on the MMIR Action Plan and related activities is available at edmonton.ca/MMIR.

Key activities in 2024 include:

1. The **MMIR Gathering The Strength in Our Stories** event took place January 8, 2025; the event created a sacred space for community members to share stories, explore systemic issues and solutions, honour loved ones, and foster healing. Centered on the theme of *The Strength in Our Stories*, the gathering brought together Indigenous community members, advocates, and allies to network and connect, discuss pathways to justice, prevention and healing, and remember



People gather and hold hands during a round dance at the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event at Kinsmen Park, September 2024.

and uplift MMIR through ceremony and dialogue.

2. The Indigenous Relations Office supported Edmonton's participation in **Moose Hide Campaign Day**, an Indigenous-led movement founded to end violence against Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit+ people. The campaign originated near British Columbia's Highway of Tears and had grown into a nationwide effort. The IRO facilitated community engagement activities for Moose Hide Pin Day on May 15, 2024 to encourage taking a stand against gender-based violence.
3. In partnership with Ociciwan Contemporary Art Society and Heartland Society, the Indigenous Relations Office established two internship positions titled the **Indigenous Project and Engagement Internship (MMIWG2S+) Program**. These internship roles were designed to advance initiatives dedicated to improving the lives of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.
4. On May 5, the City of Edmonton joined communities across Canada in observing **Red Dress Day** to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives. Red dresses displayed across the city served as powerful reminders of those lost and the grief carried by survivors and families. The Indigenous Relations Office supported community-led initiatives to mark this important day of awareness and remembrance.



Red dresses in Beaver Hills House Park honour missing and murdered Indigenous relatives, May 2024.



Call to Action No. 82 calls for a residential schools monument in each capital city to honour survivors and the children who were lost to their families and communities.

THE ROAD AHEAD: PLANS FOR 2025

In 2025, collaborative efforts to implement the Indigenous Framework are actively underway, focusing on building strong and supportive relationships with Indigenous Peoples. This work will continue to be rooted in kinship and will involve participation in ceremonies, attendance at community gatherings, and attentive listening to the lived experiences of Indigenous Peoples in the city and surrounding areas.

Indigenous Framework

Moving forward, the City remains committed to deepening the implementation of the Indigenous Framework. Over the coming years, we will be developing more in depth and specific strategic framework plans that will continue to prioritize community feedback, enhance our evaluation methods through an Indigenous lens, and ensure that our projects and services are responsive to the evolving needs of Indigenous Peoples.

As we move into the next phase of the Indigenous Framework, we recognize that this work is a continuous journey of learning, adaptation, collaboration and active community involvement. We will continue to seek guidance from Elders and Knowledge Holders, listen to the voices of the community, and refine our approaches to better reflect Indigenous ways of knowing and being. We will prioritize opportunities to partner with Indigenous organizations and individuals, ensuring that their voices are central to our planning and decision-making processes. The year 2025 will be a time of growth, strengthened partnerships, and deepening our commitment to reconciliation.

TRC Municipal Response Plan

The city is currently working through a “rethink” of the Municipal Response Plan, which will include a redraft of the TRC Dashboard and website.

The TRC Municipal Response plan will remain a living and evolving process representing the priorities of Indigenous Peoples in Edmonton. With guidance and learnings from our Elders Gathering, we will support the process for several key initiatives in 2025 and beyond including:

- **Space for ceremonial fires** — we are currently in the late stages of the project plan for creating a space at City Hall to support ceremonial fires for Indigenous cultural practices.
- **Renaming Government Centre LRT Station** — after Edmonton City Council unanimously voted in 2021 to remove the previous name and related mural, both of which evoked painful memories connected to Canada’s residential school system, we are convening a community

circle to guide the process of renaming and commissioning new art for this space.

- **Residential schools memorial** — the City of Edmonton is collaborating with partners to identify opportunities for honouring the lives lost to, and affected by, residential schools, particularly in connection with the former Edmonton and Youville residential school sites outside city boundaries.
- **Urban Reserves:** The City of Edmonton is currently developing a process to support applications for additions to reserves. This process aligns with the City Council-approved [Urban Reserve Strategy](#), and will prepare the City to support future applications for additions to reserve lands in urban settings.

Success will ensure an inclusive process involving our Indigenous community members, Memorandum of Understanding Partners, Elders and Knowledge Holders, who will provide guidance, wisdom and insight as we move forward.

MMIR Action Plan

The City of Edmonton remains committed to supporting cultural resurgence and community-led initiatives, including National Indigenous History Month, Walk a Mile in a Ribbon Skirt, Blue Jean Jacket Day, Moose Hide Campaign Day, and Okîsikow (Angel) Way Day. We continue to collaborate with community partners such as the Edmonton Heritage Council, Ociciwan Contemporary Art Society, Aboriginal Alert, Edmonton 2-Spirit Society, and Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society

Building on the success of last year's Indigenous Project and Engagement Internship program, we have partnered with Edmonton 2-Spirit Society and the Fireweed Society to allow the interns the opportunity to work across organizations, supporting projects that enhance the well-being of Indigenous women and Two-Spirit communities.

Partnerships enabled through the MMIR Action Plan include a collaboration with Indigenous media to raise public awareness of missing and murdered Indigenous relatives. Throughout 2025, the City of Edmonton will be working with these partners to develop and share an education and awareness campaign that includes the voices of survivors, activists, and advocates involved in local efforts to end violence against Indigenous Peoples.



Elder Jerry Saddleback and Mayor Amarjeet Sohi embrace at a City Council and Elders Gathering with Ward sîpiwiyiniwak Councillor Sarah Hamilton and Elder Jo-Ann Saddleback in the background, April 2024.

CONCLUSION

Building upon decades of relationship building, the Indigenous Framework has continued to strengthen connections with Indigenous Peoples in 2024. Tangible progress has been made through initiatives like the Indigenous Project and Engagement Internship (MMIWG2S+), the Operating Grant for Indigenous-led Organizations, and the partnership with the First Nations Inspection Authority, demonstrating our commitment to the Framework's seven commitments. The TRC Municipal Response Plan and MMIR Action Plan further solidify our dedication, guided by the principles of kinship (Wahigicobi) and the wisdom of Elders and Knowledge Holders.

Guided by the four framework roles and with the ongoing support of City leadership, staff and community partners, we will continue to advance the numerous projects outlined in our departmental action plans. These efforts are aimed at achieving real and lasting change that supports the well-being and prosperity of Indigenous Peoples in Edmonton.

Recognizing that reconciliation is an ongoing journey, we remain steadfast in our commitment to learning, adapting, and collaborating with Indigenous communities. We aspire to build a vibrant, inclusive and welcoming Edmonton where Indigenous voices are heard, respected and honoured, embodying the spirit of kinship.